GHOST RIDER ◆ CAPTAIN AMERICA
FEAR

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a Behry Scan
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GHOST RIDER
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MARVEL® COMICS GHOST RIDER® ◆ CAPTAIN AMERICA® FEAR
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FEAR: Your heart races, your breath becomes shallow, sweat streams from every pore. Your brain screams, because your throat constricts into a dry rasp. You try to run,but your legs won't carry you. The fear takes over your body.
SCARECROW: Endowed with superhuman strength and the power to stir up the fear that lurks inside, causing panic attacks in any who approach him, SCARECROW is on a vendetta of blood and fear.
GHOST RIDER and CAPTAIN AMERICA: The SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE and the SENTINEL OF LIBERTY.
Both must overcome their personal fears in order to quell those of a city bathed in red with the blood of innocent victims.

CAPTAIN AMERICA

FEAR

a Behry Sean

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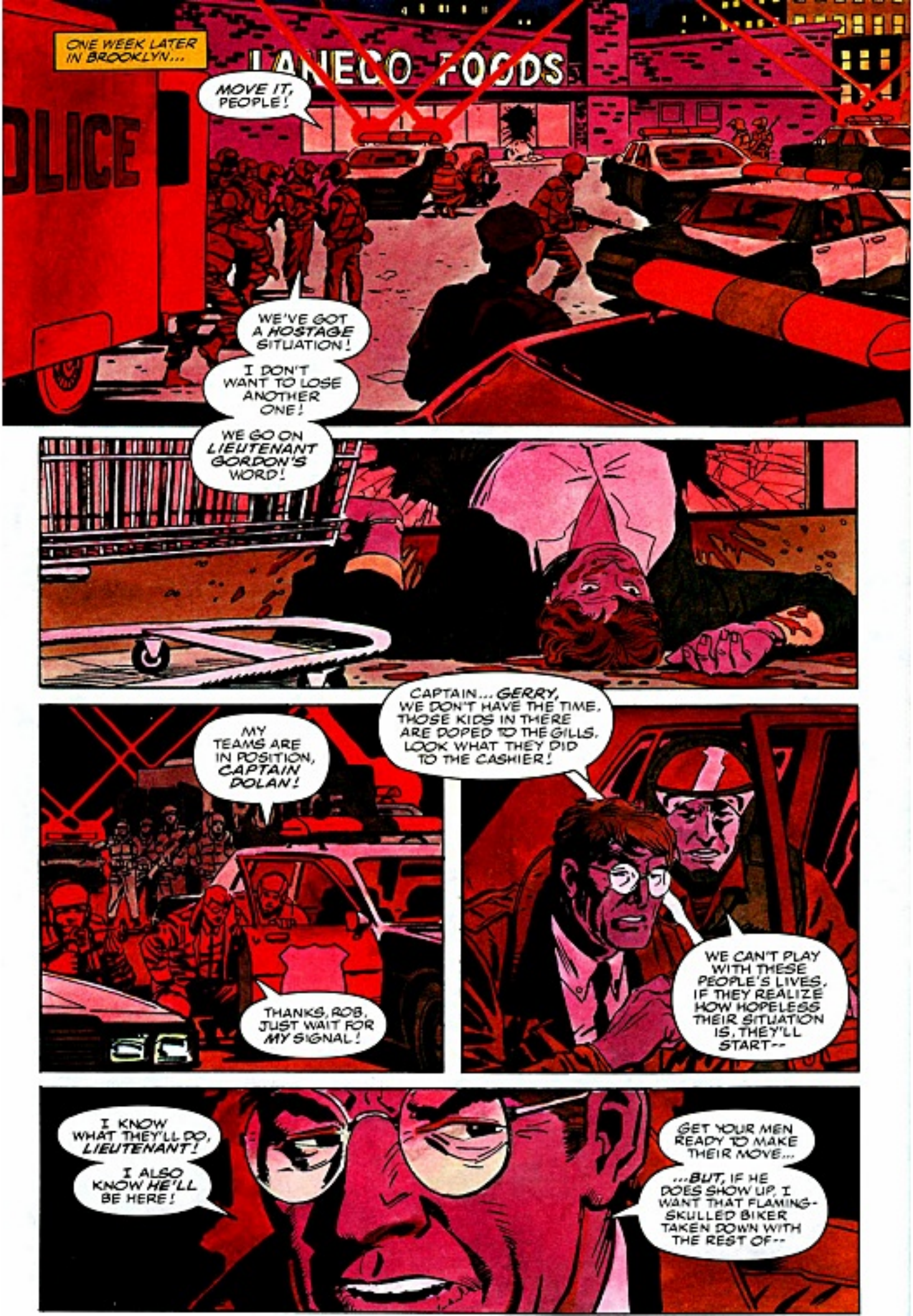
PROLOGUE
LET'S CLOSE HIM UP. THE IMPLANTS ARE IN PLACE.
VITAL SIGNS ARE STEADY.
PAT, IS THIS RIGHT? ALL THAT WE'VE DONE TO THIS MAN OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. IT BORDERS ON THE OBSCENE!
DOCTOR HARRIS. I DON'T RECALL ANY QUESTIONS OF MORALITY WHEN YOU RECEIVED YOUR FEE FROM OUR EMPLOYERS.
NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO QUESTION THAT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE.
IT'S JUST A JOB.
ONCE WE FINISH SEWING HIM UP HE'S NO LONGER OUR CONCERN.
WE CAN DISCUSS ISSUES OF MORALITY ON A BEACH IN THE CARIBBEAN.
BUT--
ENOUGH, DOCTOR, I'M ANXIOUS TO GET OUT OF HERE!
MR. LAUGHTON HERE DISTURBS ME...

...EVEN WHEN HE IS HEAVILY SEDATED.
WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE!?
IT'S A WRAP, DOCTORS. LET'S GET HIM INTO RECOVERY.
PRETTY GREEN PACKAGES.
ALL LINED UP AND READY TO BE OPENED.
LIKE THE PRESENTS MOTHER USED TO GIVE ME WHEN I WAS A GOOD BOY.
TIME TO OPEN UP THE PRETTY GREEN ONES, EBENEZER!
TIME TO OPEN THEM AND LET OUT THE FEARFUL THING INSIDE THEM ALL.
TIME TO PLAY, EBENEZER.

DOCTOR!
IMPOSSIBLE! THE ANESTHESIA!
PRETTY PACKAGES.
TIME TO OPEN THEM UP.
LET THE FEAR OUT.
LET IT COME TO ME!
PRETTY.
PRETTY.
THANK YOU, MOMMY.
NICE PRESENTS.
NOW CAN I HAVE MY BIRDS BACK, MOMMY? CAN I OPEN UP CAPTAIN AMERICA?
I'LL BE A GOOD LITTLE SCARECROW, MOMMY.


ONE WEEK LATER IN BROOKLYN...
LANECO FOODS
POLICE
MOVE IT, PEOPLE!
WE'VE GOT A HOSTAGE SITUATION!
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE ANOTHER ONE!
WE GO ON LIEUTENANT GORDON'S WORD!
MY TEAMS ARE IN POSITION, CAPTAIN DOLAN!
THANKS, ROB, JUST WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL!
CAPTAIN... GERRY, WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME. THOSE KIDS IN THERE ARE DOPED TO THE GILLS. LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO THE CASHIER!
WE CAN'T PLAY WITH THESE PEOPLE'S LIVES. IF THEY REALIZE HOW HOPELESS THEIR SITUATION IS, THEY'LL START--
I KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO, LIEUTENANT!
I ALSO KNOW HE'LL BE HERE!
GET YOUR MEN READY TO MAKE THEIR MOVE...
...BUT, IF HE DOES SHOW UP, I WANT THAT FLAMING-SKULLED BIKER TAKEN DOWN WITH THE REST OF--

IT'S HIM! THE GHOST RIDER!
HOLY... I NEVER SAW HIM UP CLOSE BEFORE!
NO MORE LIVES WILL BE LOST TONIGHT!
KRASH
YOU NAIL THAT THING, GORDON!
NO SCREW UPS! I WANT HIS HEAD!

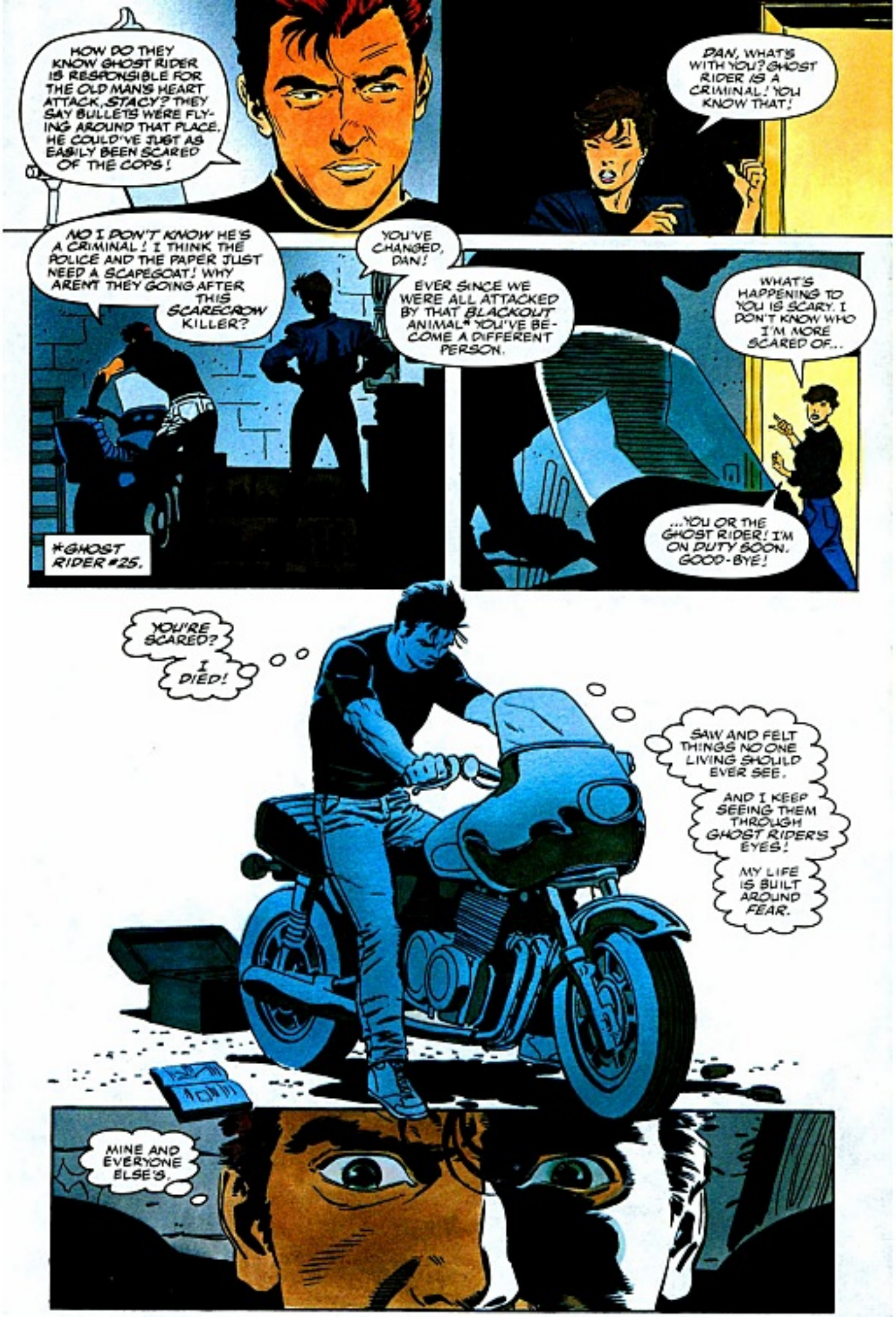
LET THE HOSTAGES GO!
NO! I TOLD THE COPS NOT TO TRY THIS HEROIC STUFF!
YOU THINK I'M 'FRAID OF YOU?
YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID OF ME, MAN!
YOU SCREWED UP! THESE PEOPLE ARE DEAD!
TCHUNK
YOU SHOULD BE AFRAID.
VERY AFRAID.

NO... NO... PLEASE LEAVE ME ALONE!
IT'S THIS ONE I WANT. THE KILLER.
HE MUST BE MADE TO FEEL THE PAIN OF THOSE WHO'VE SUFFERED AT HIS HANDS.
THE PAIN OF MY PENANCE STARE.
:PTOO:
FEEL THIS! 'CAUSE I AIN'T FEELING NO PAIN TONIGHT, MAN!
PRUGS.
MY MISSION OF VENGEANCE IS USELESS ON MEN LIKE YOU.
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING THAT YOU FEAR...
...DEATH.
HAVE YOU CONTEMPLATED YOUR OWN DEATH AS YOU HAVE TAKEN THE LIVES OF OTHERS?
ARE YOU READY TO DIE?
ACK! ACK!

THINK ABOUT IT.
REMEMBER IT.
I WON'T TAKE IT.
NOT TONIGHT!
L-LEAVE ME ALONE... MONSTER... I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING... PLEASE...
I MEAN YOU NO HARM.
M-MY H-HEART... LEAVE ME...
POLICE!
EVERYONE DOWN!
BRRRATTTT
BTOOM
BTOOM
BTOOM
AGAIN, NO MATTER WHAT MY ACTIONS, I AM SEEN AS THE VILLAIN.

AGAIN I MUST RUN FROM THOSE WHO SHOULD BE MY ALLIES.
LADY!
STAY DOWN!
WHY DO THEY FEAR ME?
PTWG
PTWG
PTWG
PTWG
WHY DOES THEIR FEAR DRIVE THEM TO VIOLENCE?
WHY?
WHY? TELL ME WHY ONE OF THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED S.W.A.T. TEAMS IN THE COUNTRY COULDN'T SUBDUE A SINGLE INDIVIDUAL!
WHY, LIEUTENANT GORDON?
NO EXCUSE, SIR.

ONLY THAT I WAS ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT ANY CASUALTIES AMONG THE HOSTAGES.
ATTEMPTING TO DO MY JOB, SIR.
LIEUTENANT! WE HAVE ALL THE GANG MEMBERS IN CUSTODY. THERE WAS JUST ONE CASUALTY...
...AN OLD MAN. LOOKS LIKE A HEART ATTACK.
LET THE PARAMEDICS IN. SEE IF THERE IS ANYTHING THEY CAN DO.
YES, SIR.
GERRY, YOU'RE A CANDIDATE FOR THE CARDIAC WARD YOURSELF IF YOU KEEP LETTING THIS GUY GET TO YOU.
I'M SAYING THIS AS A FRIEND. YOU'VE GOT TO LET IT GO.
ARE YOU AFRAID THAT MAYBE THIS GHOST RIDER IS ACTUALLY ON OUR SIDE?
NOT LIKELY.
DAILY BUGLE
VIGILANTE BIKER
cares Hostage to Death
Third Scarecrow Killing This Month
Police Still Searching For Clues
MORONS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DAN? THEY CANCEL CALVIN AND HOBBES OR SOMETHING?


HOW DO THEY KNOW GHOST RIDER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OLD MAN'S HEART ATTACK, STACY? THEY SAY BULLETS WERE FLYING AROUND THAT PLACE. HE COULD'VE JUST AS EASILY BEEN SCARED OF THE COPS!
DAN, WHAT'S WITH YOU? GHOST RIDER IS A CRIMINAL! YOU KNOW THAT!
NO I DON'T KNOW HE'S A CRIMINAL! I THINK THE POLICE AND THE PAPER JUST NEED A SCAPEGOAT! WHY AREN'T THEY GOING AFTER THIS SCARECROW KILLER?
YOU'VE CHANGED, DAN!
EVER SINCE WE WERE ALL ATTACKED BY THAT BLACKOUT ANIMAL* YOU'VE BECOME A DIFFERENT PERSON.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU IS SCARY. I DON'T KNOW WHO I'M MORE SCARED OF...
...YOU OR THE GHOST RIDER! I'M ON DUTY SOON. GOOD-BYE!
*GHOST RIDER #25.
YOU'RE SCARED?
I DIED!
SAW AND FELT THINGS NO ONE LIVING SHOULD EVER SEE.
AND I KEEP SEEING THEM THROUGH GHOST RIDER'S EYES!
MY LIFE IS BUILT AROUND FEAR.
MINE AND EVERYONE ELSE'S.

ELSEWHERE...
GOD, THE STENCH!
SIR, WE HAVE A LIVE ONE. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT SHE'S HUNG ON FOR A WEEK.
WE'RE BRINGING HER IN NOW. HAVE A MED TEAM WAITING FOR US...
...SHE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LEFT IN HER.
ROBERT H. STUBBS
POLICE COMMISSIONER
WHAT?!! ARE YOU INSANE?
YOU WANT ME TO GIVE UP ALL THE MONTHS OF WORK I'VE PUT IN ON THE GHOST RIDER CASE?
GERRY, THERE IS NO POINT IN DISCUSSING IT. THE MAYOR WANTS--
THE MAYOR? WHAT DOES HE KNOW ABOUT--?
YOU WILL DROP ALL LEADS--IF ANY--ON THE GHOST RIDER, AND DEVOTE YOUR FULL ATTENTION TO APPREHENDING THIS SCARECROW MANIAC.
BUT THE GHOST RIDER--
DO IT, CAPTAIN DOLAN!
GERRY, WE NEED YOUR FULL ATTENTION ON THIS SCARECROW CASE. I WANT THIS NUT CAUGHT BEFORE THE PRESS AND THE TV PEOPLE TURN HIM INTO THE NEXT BIG MEDIA STAR...
...YOU CAN GO BACK TO YOUR GHOST RIDER WHEN YOU'RE DONE.

THAT NIGHT IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS...
MOTHER? WHY DOES CAPTAIN AMERICA CONTINUE TO AVOID ME?
HASN'T HE GOTTEN THE MESSAGES I'VE BEEN LEAVING FOR HIM?
THE FEAR THAT I'VE RELEASED FROM INSIDE ALL THOSE PACKAGES SWIMS AROUND ME LIKE CROWS IN THE NIGHT SKY.
CAN'T THE GOOD CAPTAIN SEE IT?
CAN'T HE COME TO ME?
HMM! YOUNG LOVERS.
TIME TO SEND THE CAPTAIN ANOTHER MESSAGE.
TIME TO OPEN ANOTHER PAIR OF PACKAGES!
TO ME, MY PETS!
MY UNKNOWN BENEFACTORS HAVE HELPED TO RELEASE THE FEARFUL THING INSIDE OF ME, MOTHER...AND...
...NOW MY PETS WILL NO LONGER APPROACH ME.
AH, WELL. ATTACK, THEN!

ATTACK!
RACHEL, RUN!
...YOU CAN'T RUN FROM WHAT'S INSIDE OF YOU!
FEEL YOUR HEART RACE...
... YOUR LUNGS FIGHT FOR AIR...
...YOUR MUSCLES REBELLING AGAINST ALL YOUR COMMANDS!
THAT IS THE FEARFUL THING TRYING TO ESCAPE.
NO. NO. NO!
DON'T RUN FROM YOUR FEAR...
NOT TO WORRY.
I'LL HELP IT COME OUT!

FREEZE!
DROP YOUR WEAPON AND BACK AWAY FROM THE KIDS!
EASY DOES IT, STACY!
IF HE KEEPS COMING AT US WE'VE GOT TO TAKE HIM DOWN.
IT'LL BE A RIGHTEOUS SHOOTING.
I'LL FOLLOW YOUR LEAD, RAY.
WHAT PRETTY LIGHTS, MOMMY?
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!
BLAM!
BLAM
BLAM
NO. NO. NO. CAN'T STAY AWAY.
I'VE GOT TO GET CLOSE TO YOU SO YOUR FEAR CAN START UP.
MY DOCTORS DID THIS TO ME, TOO!
CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?

R-RAY! W-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
S-SO S-SCARED!
C-CAN'T BREATHE... HEART RACING... I'M GOING TO DIE!
M-ME TOO, S-STACY!
G-GOING CRAZY!
NO, RAY, THE LADY IS RIGHT...
...YOU'RE GOING TO DIE!
BUT THE FEARFUL THING INSIDE YOU HAS BEEN LET OUT!
NEXT.
W-WHAT ARE YOU D-DOING TO ME? WHO ARE YOU?
I'M...?
YOU? YOU ARE...

...MOMMY?
THEY TOLD ME YOU RAN AWAY.
THAT YOU WERE DEAD.
I KNEW THAT THEY WERE LYING.
YOU'D NEVER LEAVE ME.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU, MOMMY!
TIME TO GO HOME, MY PETS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IGNORE THESE MESSAGES!
THE AIR IS THICK WITH THE FEARFUL THING!
ELSEWHERE...
THE MED TEAM SAYS SHE DOESN'T HAVE LONG, SIR.
WELL, THEN, PUT THE GOOD DOCTOR ON THE DESK.
NO SENSE IN STAINING A PERFECTLY GOOD CARPET.
NOW, LET'S SEE WHAT I CAN LEARN ABOUT OUR MR. LAUGHTON.
TIME TO TALK, DOCTOR.
THEN YOU CAN DIE!

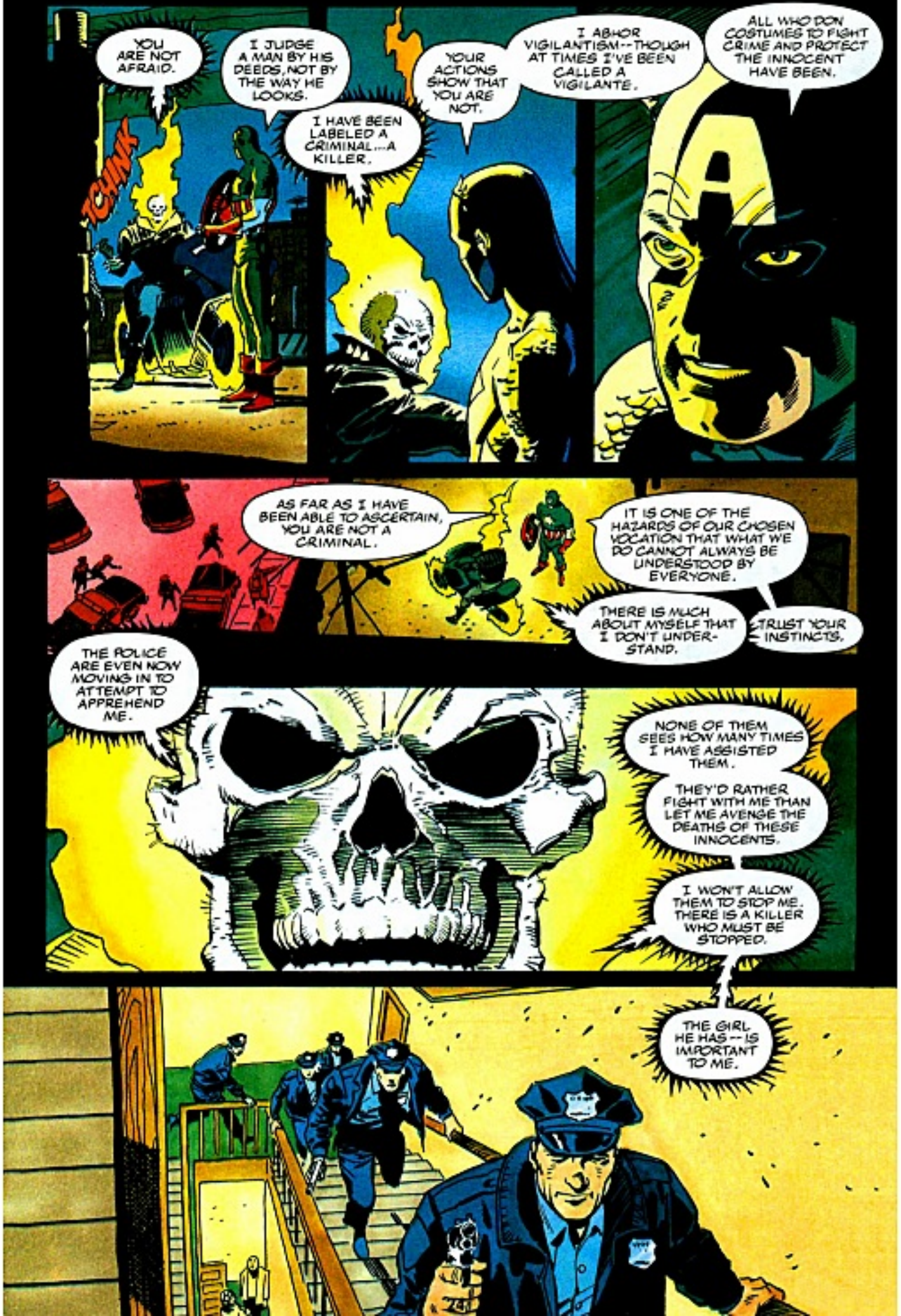
LATER THAT NIGHT...
CAN'T SLEEP AGAIN.
SO I RIDE THE STREETS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FOR GHOST RIDER TO GET INVOLVED IN.
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO ISN'T AFRAID OF GHOST RIDER?
THINGS HAVE CHANGED FROM THE BEGINNING.
BACK THEN I WAS MORE AFRAID OF HIM THAN ANYONE.
POLICE HEADING SOMEWHERE IN A HURRY!
THE MEDALLION IS GLOWING!
LOOKS LIKE I FOUND SOMETHING FOR GHOST RIDER TO DO!

NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DO THIS...
...IT NEVER GETS ANY *LESS* PAINFUL!
FWOOSH
ONCE AGAIN, I RIDE FORWARD...
...TOWARDS *VENGEANCE!*

YOU THINK HE WAS AFTER STACY, GERRY?
HOW COULD THE LUNATIC KNOW SHE WAS YOUR DAUGHTER?
YOU THINK THE MESSAGE WAS MEANT FOR YOU?
GERRY? CAPTAIN...?
OH CAPTAIN, MY CAPTAIN
OFFICERS, I BELIEVE THE MESSAGE WAS MEANT FOR ME.
SCARECROW AND I HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS.
CAPTAIN AMERICA!
WHAT? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO WITH STACY?
EXACTLY HOW ARE YOU INVOLVED IN THIS?

EBENEZER LAUGHTON IS A PSYCHOTIC...
...AND FOR SOME REASON HE'S BECOME FIXATED ON ME.
LAUGHTON HAS ESCAPED BEFORE AND HE ALWAYS COMES LOOKING FOR ME.
ACCORDING TO HIS DOCTORS, HE'S A COMPLEX INDIVIDUAL... AND A DANGEROUS ONE.
WHEN I LAST FACED HIM, HE WAS CLAIMING TO HAVE BEEN AN ABUSED CHILD. HIS BROTHER, RALPH, DISCREDITED THAT STORY.*
*CAPTAIN AMERICA #280
THE PSYCHIATRIC RECORDS SHOW THAT LAUGHTON WAS VERY CLOSE TO HIS MOTHER WHEN HE WAS A CHILD. HE IDOLIZED HER.
UNFORTUNATELY FOR HIM SHE WAS AN ALCOHOLIC.
HER DRINKING LED INTO PERIODS WHERE SHE HERSELF WOULD BECOME ABUSIVE TO YOUNG LAUGHTON.
FINALLY, HIS FATHER DIVORCED HER AND SHE WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN. LAUGHTON COULD NOT LIVE WITH THE MEMORY OF HIS BELOVED MOTHER BEING ABUSIVE SO HE TRANSFERRED ALL THE BLAME TO HIS FATHER.
AFTER HIS STINT AS A CIRCUS CONTORTIONIST, HE ASSUMED THE SCARECROW GUISE, AND HIS MIND BEGAN TO COLLAPSE IN ON ITSELF.
THE PSYCHIATRISTS THAT I'VE BEEN SPEAKING TO BELIEVE THAT HE TRANSFERRED THE INTENSE HATRED HE FELT TOWARDS HIS FATHER TO ME.
MY DAUGHTER... WHY DIDN'T HE KILL HER AS WELL?
I DON'T KNOW WHY, SIR, BUT I INTEND TO FIND THEM BOTH.
NOT WITHOUT ME, YOU WON'T!
SIR, I...
GENTLEMEN...
WE HAVE COMPANY.

GHOST RIDER.
GERRY, SHOULD I HAVE THE MEN CORDON OFF THE BLOCK?
I... I... I DON'T...
GERRY?
OFFICERS...
...I'LL HANDLE...
...THIS!
FREEZE, MISTER!


YOU ARE NOT AFRAID.
I JUDGE A MAN BY HIS DEEDS, NOT BY THE WAY HE LOOKS.
I HAVE BEEN LABELED A CRIMINAL...A KILLER.
TCHINK
YOUR ACTIONS SHOW THAT YOU ARE NOT.
I ABHOR VIGILANTISM--THOUGH AT TIMES I'VE BEEN CALLED A VIGILANTE.
ALL WHO DON COSTUMES TO FIGHT CRIME AND PROTECT THE INNOCENT HAVE BEEN.
AS FAR AS I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO ASCERTAIN, YOU ARE NOT A CRIMINAL.
IT IS ONE OF THE HAZARDS OF OUR CHOSEN VOCATION THAT WHAT WE DO CANNOT ALWAYS BE UNDERSTOOD BY EVERYONE.
THERE IS MUCH ABOUT MYSELF THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS.
THE POLICE ARE EVEN NOW MOVING IN TO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND ME.
NONE OF THEM SEES HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE ASSISTED THEM.
THEY'D RATHER FIGHT WITH ME THAN LET ME AVENGE THE DEATHS OF THESE INNOCENTS.
I WON'T ALLOW THEM TO STOP ME. THERE IS A KILLER WHO MUST BE STOPPED.
THE GIRL HE HAS -- IS IMPORTANT TO ME.

WHY HER?
SHE IS IMPORTANT TO ONE CLOSE TO ME...
...WILL YOU HELP ME FIND HIM?
I KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM THAN ANYONE.
YES.

WHERE...
...AM I?
YOU'RE *HOME*, MOMMY.
WHERE YOU BELONG.
I'M GOING TO TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO *LEAVE* AGAIN.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, MOTHER.
I CAN HELP YOU LET THE *FEARFUL THING* OUT.
OMIGOD!
S-SO SCARED... CAN HARDLY BREATHE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DRINK ANYMORE TO DO IT.
I CAN HELP YOU.

I'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY.
I'VE LEARNED LOTS ABOUT LETTING THE FEAR OUT!
THOSE PRETTY GREEN AND RED DOCTORS GAVE ME THE POWER TO STIR UP THE FEARFUL THING INSIDE EVERYONE...
...AND I HAVE A VERY EFFECTIVE WAY TO LET IT OUT!
NOOOO!
SLEEP, MOMMY.
I'LL MAKE IT ALL BETTER.
ELSEWHERE...
IT SEEMS THE OPERATION WAS A SUCCESS.
MR. LAUGHTON IS NOW PRODUCING A MUTATED PHEROMONE WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECTS THE ADRENAL GLANDS OF ALL WHO COME WITHIN TWENTY FEET OF HIS PERSON...
...CAUSING A SENSORY OVERLOAD WHICH LEADS TO A PANIC ATTACK.
THIS SAME PHEROMONE AFFECTS HIS OWN ADRENAL SYSTEM IN A POSITIVE WAY -- MR. LAUGHTON IS NOW A MUCH STRONGER INDIVIDUAL.
FIND HIM. WE SPENT THE MONEY TO PUT HIM TO WORK FOR US.

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS...
WHERE DOES THIS MOTORCYCLE GET ITS POWER, GHOST RIDER?
THAT, LIKE MUCH OF MY EXISTENCE, IS SHROUDED IN MYSTERY.
THIS MYSTERY AND MY BLIND QUEST FOR VENGEANCE ARE SOURCES OF FEAR TO MY HUMAN HOST...
...AND TO ME.
WE ALL HAVE TO FACE OUR FEARS IN ORDER TO MOVE FORWARD.
MY ONLY FEAR IS THAT THE SCARECROW WILL KILL AGAIN.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND THE KILLER?
LAUGHTON'S FAMILY LIVED IN A BROWNSTONE IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS WHEN HE WAS A VERY YOUNG BOY. IT'S PROBABLY WHAT KEEPS HIM COMING BACK TO THIS AREA.
HIS CROWS WILL DO THE REST.

THIS IS IT.
WE'VE GOT TO LURE HIM AWAY FROM THE GIRL.
IT'S ME HE WANTS, SO I'LL GO IN THE FRONT DOOR. HOPEFULLY THAT WILL DISTRACT HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO GET HER OUT.
WHY DON'T YOU HEAD UP TO THE...
...ROOF?!

EBENEZER!
SCARECROW!
I'M HERE.
YOU WANTED ME...
...NOW SHOW YOURSELF!
KTANG
KRAK

BIAK
IT'S OVER, EBENEZER.
NO, MY CAPTAIN...
...IT'S BARELY BEGUN.
STRENGTH IS UP TO SUPER-HUMAN LEVEL.
THIS IS NEW.
AND SOMETHING ELSE...HEART RACING... NERVOUS SYSTEM SUPER-CHARGED... I'M FEELING SCARED.
WHY? HOW?

WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING IT, CAPTAIN?
I CAN RELEASE THE FEAR YOU'RE FEELING INSIDE YOU.
I'LL OPEN YOU UP AND YOUR FEARS WILL DRAIN AWAY.
REFLEXES. STRENGTH. STAMINA. ALL DOWN.
HAVE TO GET PAST THIS!
NOW, CAPTAIN...
...LET ME OPEN YOU! AND BRING YOU TO MOMMY!
BARELY AVOIDED THAT ONE.
CAN'T YOU FEEL THE FEAR BEGGING TO BE RELEASED?
KRAK
YOUR ENTIRE BODY IS TREMBLING WITH ANTICIPATION.
I MUST OBLIGE YOU, MY CAPTAIN.
C-CAN H-HARDLY STAND.

TCHINK
WHAT?
NOOOO!
YOU DARE STOP ME FROM OPENING MY PRETTY RED, WHITE AND BLUE PACKAGE?
THE CAPTAIN WAS TO BE A PRESENT FOR MY MOTHER.
A FEAR THAT YOU CANNOT REACH...
WHAT FEAR DO YOU HOLD INSIDE OF YOU, SKELETON MAN?
...BUT ONE YOU WILL SOON FEEL BURN AT YOUR SOUL.

STARTING TO CALM DOWN...
THESE NEW POWERS OF HIS TOOK ME BY SURPRISE...
...NEXT TIME THEY WON'T!
CAPTAIN DOLAN, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND US...
...THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE YOUR DAUGHTER IS STILL ALIVE!
I'M A DETECTIVE, REMEMBER? AND MY DAUGHTER WAS TAKEN BY THAT ANIMAL.
WELL, CALL FOR BACK-UP, DETECTIVE...
YOU WILL FEEL THE PAIN OF ALL THOSE WHO YOU HAVE HARMED...
...AND THEN YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUE MEANING OF FEAR.
FEAR?
I LIVE ON FEAR!
IT'S MY FRIEND, MY PET.

AFTER I'M DONE WITH YOU AND THE CAPTAIN...
...I WILL OPEN MORE AND MORE PACKAGES.
THE FEARS WILL BE RELEASED.
THEY'LL SWIM AROUND ME.
DO MY BIDDING.
NEVER TOUCHING ME.
NO!
YOU CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO CAUSE ANY MORE INNOCENT DEATHS!

THE S.W.A.T. TEAM IS ON ITS WAY.
GOOD. YOU STAY HERE AND WAIT FOR THEM. I--
SHE'S MY DAUGHTER!
THE SCARECROW IS OUT OF YOUR LEAGUE, SIR. I CAN'T PROTECT YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER BOTH.
CAPTAIN?
HE'S GOING AFTER MOMMY!
I CAN'T LET HIM REACH HER.
ONCE IT'S RELEASED IT'S HARD TO GRAB HOLD OF AGAIN.
FEAR CAN BE A SLIPPERY THING, SKULL MAN.
AND THEN IT CAN GET INTO THE TIGHTEST PLACES.

PAKASH
AND THEN THE FEAR VANISHES. UNREACHABLE, BUT READY TO STRIKE AGAIN.
VENGEANCE IS NOT DETERRED BY FEAR.
TCHINK
VENGEANCE CANNOT BE RELEASED TO FLOAT AWAY.
VENGEANCE CRUSHES ALL FEAR.
KTASH!

MY GOD
IT'S A SLAUGHTER HOUSE IN HERE.
THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED IN THE HOUSE.
AND SO MANY OTHERS.
ALL THE BLOOD... THE STRAW...
STACY.
SO MUCH INNOCENT BLOOD.
HERE DWELLS MY PERSONAL FEAR...
...AND DAN'S.
WILL I BE ABLE TO PREVENT MYSELF FROM KILLING THE SCARECROW FOR CAUSING ALL THIS PAIN?

WILL I TOO TAKE A HUMAN LIFE...
...AND BECOME THAT WHICH I FEAR THE MOST?
STACY, BABY, IF HE'S HURT YOU... I SWEAR I'LL...
COME AND FIND ME...
...MOMMIE AND I ARE WAITING!
KTANG
KRAK

WE'RE ALMOST THERE, SIR. LET'S FIND YOUR DAUGHTER!
YOU ARE PERSISTENT, FIRE MAN.
BUT YOU STAY AWAY FROM MY MOMMY.
I'M ABOUT TO RELEASE HER *FEAR* FOREVER!
NO, *MURDERER!*
NO MORE BLOODLETTING!
NO MORE *DEATH!*

YOUR INSANITY MUST COME TO AN END...
...PERMANENTLY!
YOUR MIND IS TOO TWISTED FOR MY PENANCE STARE.
THE BLOOD MUSTN'T...
...THE BLOOD.
THE BLOOD
NO.
I CANNOT KILL YOU.

SIR, YOU HAD BETTER...
OMIGOD, STACY...
ANIMAL!
YOU KILLED HER!
I'M GOING TO...
NO.
SHE MUST BE AVENGED BY SOMETHING MORE THAN DEATH.
LET GO OF ME, FREAK!
HE STUFFED HER WITH STRAW!
HE...
DADDY...
...I'M ALIVE, DADDY.

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, SWEETHEART.
WE'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN A SECOND.
NO...
LEAVE MY MOMMY ALONE!
I'M NOT FINISHED WITH HER YET!
I'M NOT FINISHED WITH ANY OF YOU!
YOUR FEARFUL THINGS HAVE TO BE SET FREE!
IT'S...
...OVER, EBENEZER!

I'M THE SCARECROW!
THE PRETTY GREEN PACKAGES HAVE MADE IT SO THAT MY FEARFUL THING GIVES ME STRENGTH.
I DON'T NEED THE PITCHFORK...
...I CAN RIP THE FEARFUL THING OUT OF YOU.
OUT OF YOU ALL.
BLAM
NO, MOMMY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO HURT ME ANYMORE!
I'VE BEEN GOOD.
I'LL BE BETTER...
F-FREEZE!
Y-Y-YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

...I'LL TAKE THE FEARFUL THING OUT OF YOU NOW!
THEN YOU WON'T EVER HAVE TO HURT ME AGAIN!
TCHINK
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
I CAN SLIP OUT OF YOUR CHAIN...
...ESCAPE THROUGH THE WINDOW AND...
...AND...
MOMMY

I ONLY WANTED TO STOP HIM.
HE THREW HIMSELF OUT THE WINDOW THINKING HE COULD ESCAPE.
VENGEANCE HAS BEEN SERVED.
WHERE'S THE CORONER?
I WANT THAT THING REMOVED FROM THE FENCE FAST!
HE'S ATTENDING TO ALL THE OTHER VICTIMS FIRST, SIR. THINKS IT WILL BE A COUPLE OF HOURS.
FINE.
CAPTAIN? YOU DIDN'T TRY TO STOP GHOST RIDER FROM LEAVING.
DOES THIS MEAN YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT HIM?
I'LL TELL YOU, CAPTAIN...
...I'M JUST NOT SURE.

SALEM FIELDS, CYPRESS HILLS...
IT'S BEEN AWHILE, BARB.
I'M SORRY I DON'T GET OUT HERE TO SEE YOU ANYMORE...
...BUT THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH GOING ON.
YOU WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE YOUR LITTLE BROTHER, BARB. I'VE CHANGED.
I GUESS SCARECROW AND I HAD SOMETHING IN COMMON.
HE SOUGHT TO RELEASE EVERYONE'S FEARFUL THING...
...AND MY FEARS ARE RELEASED EVERY TIME I TRANSFORM INTO GHOST RIDER...
...BUT STACY, HER FATHER, AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO SEES GHOST RIDER STILL FEAR HIM.

EPILOGUE:
MOMMY...
...I'M BACK, MOMMY.
I'M COMING.
VERY IMPRESSIVE, MR. LAUGHTON.
THE DOCTORS I HIRED SEEM TO HAVE DONE QUITE A JOB.
NOW WE NEED TO SPEAK.
MY NAME IS STERN...
...AND THE FIRM HAS USE OF YOUR SPECIAL TALENTS.
THERE IS SO MUCH FEAR FOR YOU TO SET FREE.

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FEAR: Your heart races, your breath becomes shallow, sweat streams from every pore. Your brain screams, because your throat constricts into a dry rasp. You try to run, but your legs won't carry you. The fear takes over your body.
SCARECROW: Endowed with superhuman strength and the power to stir up the fear that lurks inside, causing panic attacks in any who approach him, SCARECROW is on a vendetta of blood and fear.
GHOST RIDER and CAPTAIN AMERICA: The SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE and the SENTINEL OF LIBERTY.
Both must overcome their personal fears in order to quell those of a city bathed in red with the blood of innocent victims.